Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A synthetic~~, non-cytopathic~~ negative-strand ~~RNA~~ respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) replicon comprising

a) a nucleotide sequence of said respiratory syncytial ~~RNA~~ virus, wherein the sequences encoding the F, G and SH glycoproteins ~~sequence of all glycoprotein gene units~~ are inactivated or deleted; and

b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a selectable marker suitable for selection, wherein said sequence encoding a selectable marker is under the control of the respiratory syncytial ~~RNA~~ virus replication machinery, ~~and~~ wherein the replicon can be used to biologically select cells containing stable, replicating, ~~non-cytotoxic~~ replicons, and wherein said replicon is non-cytotoxic to said cells when said cells do not express F, G, and SH viral glycoproteins.

2. (Original) The replicon of claim 1, wherein said sequence encoding a selectable marker is a gene that confers resistance to an antibiotic.

3. (Original) The replicon of claim 2 wherein said gene is a *bsd* gene.

4. (Original) The replicon of claim 1, further comprising a sequence encoding a heterologous protein.

5. (Original) The replicon of claim 1 further comprising a reporter gene.

6. (Original) The replicon of claim 5, wherein said reporter gene is a gene encoding green fluorescent protein (GFP).

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The replicon of claim 1 ~~claim 7~~, wherein the sequence encoding the F, G and SH glycoproteins is deleted.

9. (Original) The replicon of claim 8 wherein said sequence encoding a selectable marker is a gene that confers resistance to an antibiotic.

10. (Original) The replicon of claim 9, wherein said gene is a *bsd* gene.

11. (Original) The replicon of claim 10, further comprising a reporter gene.

12. (Original) The replicon of claim 11 wherein said reporter gene is a gene encoding GFP.

13. (Original) A cell line comprising the replicon of claim 1.

14. (Original) The replicon of claim 12, wherein said replicon is harbored in a cell line selected from the group consisting of BHK-RR-B51E (ATCC deposit number PTA-5257) and HeLa-RR-B51S (ATCC deposit number PTA-5258).

15. (Original) The replicon of claim 12, further comprising a sequence encoding a heterologous protein.

16. (Currently amended) A plasmid encoding a cDNA of a ~~non-cytopathic~~ negative-strand ~~RNA~~ respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) replicon comprising

a) a nucleotide sequence complementary to the genome of a non-cytopathic negative-strand ~~RNA~~ respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) , wherein the sequences ~~sequence~~ encoding ~~all~~ F, G, and SH glycoprotein gene units are inactivated or deleted;

b) a nucleotide sequence comprising a heterologous promoter sequence operatively linked to said sequence of a); and

c) a nucleotide sequence comprising a gene encoding a selectable marker suitable for selection, wherein said gene is under the control of the RNA virus replication machinery, ~~and~~ wherein the replicon can be used to biologically select cells containing stable, replicating, ~~non-cytotoxic~~ replicons, and wherein said replicon is non-cytotoxic to said cells when said cells do not express F, G, and SH viral glycoproteins.

17. (Previously presented) The plasmid of claim 16, wherein said heterologous promoter sequence is selected from the group consisting of T7 polymerase promoter, cytomegalovirus immediate early promoter, SV40 early promoter and polymerase I promoter.

18. (Previously presented) The plasmid of claim 16 wherein said promoter is a T7 polymerase promoter.

19. (Previously presented) A replicon encoded by the plasmid of claim 16.

20.-32. (Canceled)